Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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P 072235Z NOV 74 FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5646 AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:NA TAGS: PFOR, CO SUBJECT: QUITO OAS CONFERENCE

QUITO FOR US DELEGATION TO MFM

- 1. THE SECRETARY'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT THE QUITO CONFERENCE NOW APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LARGELY ACCEPTED BY COLOMBIAN OFFICIALS AND JOURNALISTS. IN A CHANGE FROM ITS RECENT LINE ON THE ISSUE, EL TIEMPO THIS MORNING (NOV 7) RAN A COLUMN BY PRESTIGIOUS CORRESPONDENT ANTONIO OVIEDO, WHICH PLACES SECRETARY'S NON-ATTENDANCE AT QUITO IN FAVORABLE PERSPECTIVE.
- 2. COMMENTING WITH BARELY VIELED IRONY THAT A CONFERENCE IN WHICH THE SECRETARY PARTICIPATES IS MORE NEWSWORTHY THAN ONE WITHOUT HIM AND THAT A PHOTO TAKEN WITH THE SECRETARY WILL RECEIVE FAR GREATER DISTRIBUTION THAN ONE TAKEN WITH , AMONG OTHERS, THE PARAGUAYAN FONMIN "DEAN OF THE AMERICAS", OVIEDO POINTS OUT THAT, NEVERTHELESS, THE SECRETARY HAD PRIOR COMMITMENTS INVOLVING THE PREVENTION OF A "WORLD CONFLAGRATION". THE ARTICLE QUESTIONS WHETHER THE SECRETARY WAS REALLY NEEDED IN QUITO AND RECALLS THE SECRETARY'S WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN FONMINS AT TLETELOCO.
- 3. OVIEDO ALSO POINTS OUT THAT THE CUBAN SANCTIONS WERE NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REQUESTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE BUT BY SEVERAL SOUTH AMERICAN

COUNTRIES, "AND WITH VEHEMENCE AGAINST CASTRO" WHO "NEITHER GIVES NOR ASKS QUARTER OF THE OAS,DESCRIBED BY HIM WITH THE WORST EPITHETS".

- 4. ALTHOUGH THE PHOTOS OF THE QUITO CONFERENCE WOULD HAVE BEEN MORE INTERESTING WITH THE SECRETARY'S PRESENCE, THE ARTICLE CONCLUDES, THE SECRETARY COULD NOT LEND HIMSELF TO THE ROLE OF STAR IN THIS FILM, ALTHOUGH HIS ABSENCE AT THE RENEWAL OF THE TLATELOLCO DIALOGUE IN BUENOS AIRES, WHERE CONCRETE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF THE AMERICAS WILL BE ANALYZED WOULD BE ANOTHER STORY.
- 5. BOGOTA PRESS ALSO GAVE PROMINENT AND FAVORABLE COVERAGE TO THE ARRIVAL OF MEMBERS OF THE U.S. QUITO DELEGATION IN BOGOTA. FONMIN LIEVANO WAS VERY PLEASED AND FRIENDLY DURING AN AIRPORT CONFERENCE WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS AND THIS WAS CLEARLY REFLECTED BY THE PRESS AND TV COVERAGE.
- 6. ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND AMBASSADOR MAILLARD ARRIVED IN BOGOTA ON SAME AIRCRAFT WITH COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO.
 PRIOR TO DEPARTING BOGOTA FOR QUITO, FONMINS LIEVANO, FACIO AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FONMIN GOMEZ CONFERRED AT AIRPORT, FOLLOWING WHICH THEY LEFT ON SAME PLANE WITH US DELEGATION MEMBERS.
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